

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Developing a Public/Private Partnership

2 **Establish an Economic Development Committee:** On June 26, 2012 the Board of Selectmen will decide upon the draft charge for a new **Economic Development Committee**. This committee will include resident members. If you're interested submit CAC to Town Manager's Office.

Draft Charge for Economic Development Committee

- Advise the BoS and other boards on issues concerning bylaws, policies, regulations, and zoning that foster commercial growth, strengthen the local economy, and are consistent with maintaining the character of our community
- Encourage business investment along Routes 110 and 40, increasing the commercial tax base, while minimizing the impact on local services
- Identify changing economic trends and develop recommendations to maximize interest in our community & attract potential new businesses
- Assist with generating local employment opportunities
- Advocate for state and federal grants, incentives, or improvement in regulations that help advance our economic priorities
- Promote Westford's identity in the Greater Boston/MetroWest/495/Merrimack Valley area
- Establish relationships & improve communication with local businesses; act as liaison for Town in the business community
- Represent our town in the local chambers and other local business associations
- Make recommendations to streamline permitting, licensing, and other regulatory functions; help new business owners navigate our permitting process

19 Designate Business Point of Contact:

The job description for the Director of Land Use Mgmt., hired in 2010, includes serving as the town's primary contact with businesses locating or expanding in Westford.

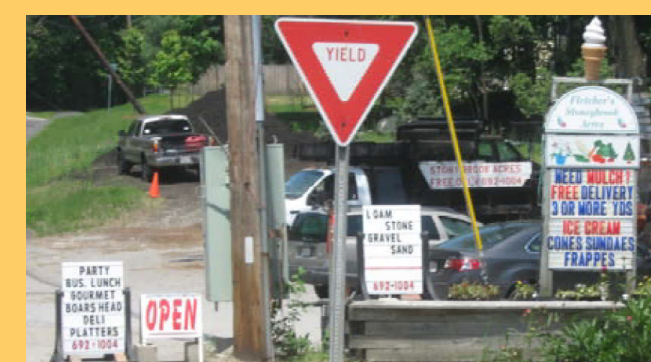
Update and Clarify Sign Bylaw: Westford is currently in Phase II of clarifying and updating the language of the signs bylaw. Working group meeting Jun 28. Get updates on the website: www.westfordma.gov/signbylaw

2011 Business Mailer



21 Streamline Permitting:

The Land Use & Permitting offices are working with volunteers from the Village at Stone Ridge to create and implement a **Small Business Permitting Guide**.



90 93 Attract Green Industry, Reuse Rt. 40 Quarries:

Apr 2012: Westford Solar Park, the largest privately-owned ground-mounted solar plant in New England, opened on the site of a former quarry. At full build, the Solar Park will provide 4.5 megawatts per year of renewable energy with no negative infrastructure, traffic, or noise impacts.

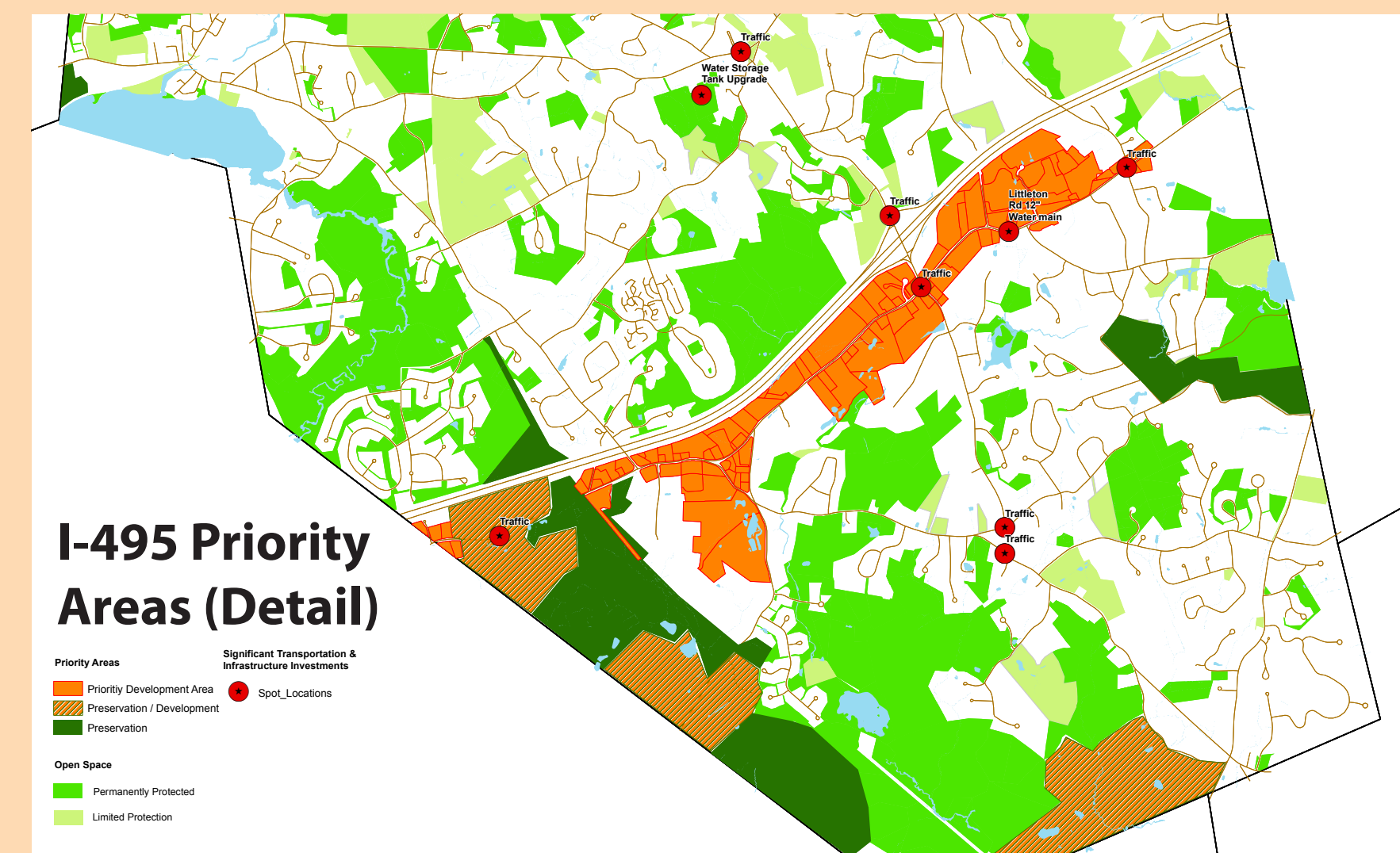
The Energy Committee is working with the Director of Land Use Management to consider a new bylaw to encourage additional solar development.

Attracting High-Tech and Green Industry



55 Secure Incentives for High-Tech Industry:

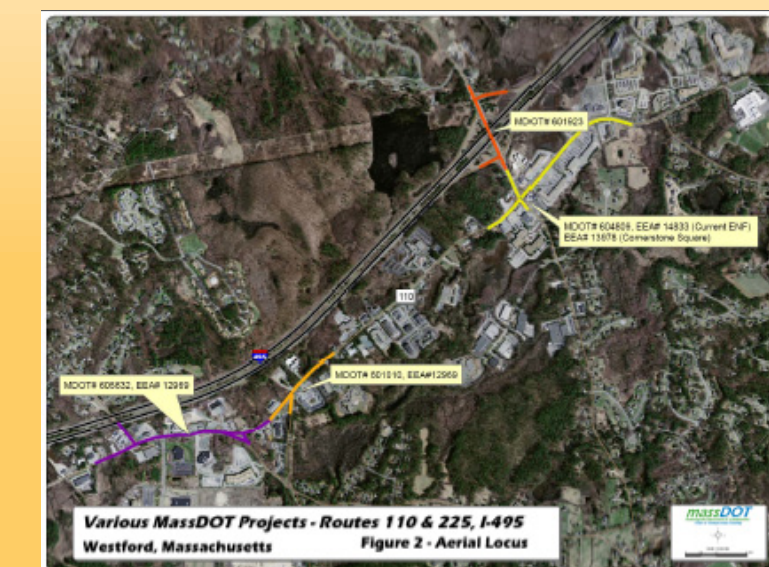
RedHat, a growing Fortune 500 software company, is expanding, and is expected to create more than 180 new jobs in Westford over the next 5 years. In 2011, Town Meeting approved **Tax Increment Financing**. This helped make Westford more attractive than a competing site in Silicon Valley, California, helping improve Westford's position as a home for high-tech business.



20 Encourage Commercial Investment along Rts. 110 & 40:

The Town has been coordinating with regional agencies to prioritize regionally-significant areas and projects in Westford. The identified community priorities will guide State infrastructure and open space preservation policy and funding.

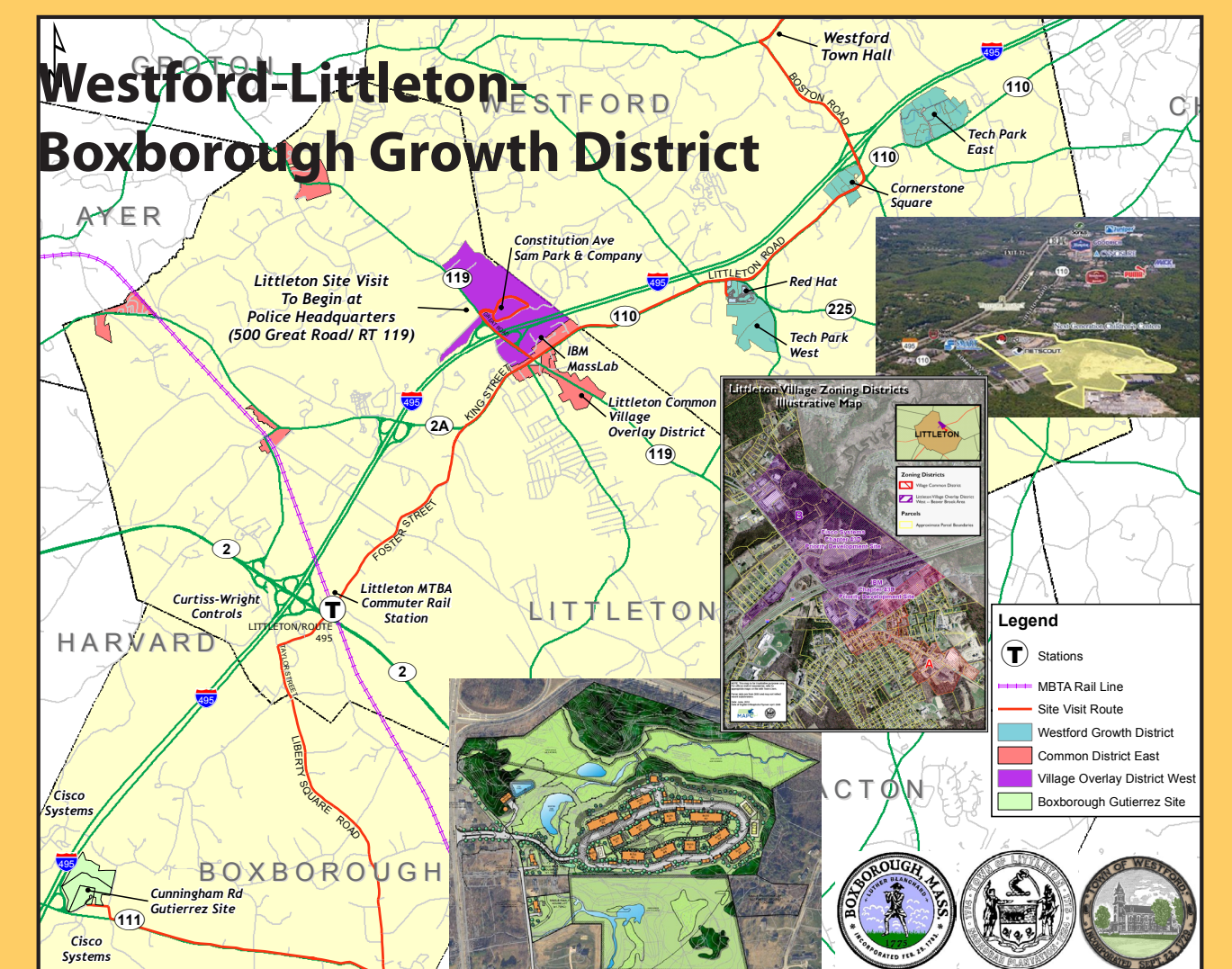
Encouraging Development in Commercial Centers



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The town has taken a lead role in coordinating improvements to the Minot's Corner intersection,

LRTA bus service, ramps to I-495, and sidewalk projects in order to maximize public and private investments' effects to move Rt. 110 toward the goal of being a multimodal, mixed-use center.



20 The Town has applied for a Growth District Initiative (GDI) designation,

which facilitates State infrastructure investment and national marketing. The District includes high-tech business sites in Westford, Littleton, and Boxborough. Work done to secure this status, including studying streamlined permitting, coordinated zoning with neighboring towns, and build-out potential, could have additional positive economic development effects.

Posters prepared by Westford Director of Land Use Management Angus Jennings with Christopher Glenn Hayes, MRP Candidate Cornell University

